



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2006 legislative session adjourned Sine Die at 9:11 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8. Although scheduled for 60 days the session ended one day early. Of the 1765 bills introduced during the 2006 session the legislature approved 376. Governor Gregoire signed 371 into law and vetoed five bills in their entirety. Unless otherwise noted the legislation becomes effective on June 7, 2006.

For the 2005-06 biennium 4223 bills were introduced. The legislature approved 899 or just over 21% of the bills. Governor Gregoire signed 887 into law and vetoed twelve bills in their entirety.

The following highlights legislation and budget issues significant to the City of Seattle.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

After twenty nine years the jurisdiction of the human rights commission has been expanded to include sexual orientation. **ESHB 2661** was signed into law on February 3.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 2871** is the new regional transportation bill which makes a number of fixes to the old RTID statute while placing several prescriptive requirements on the region. It does include some voter approved local funding options, but they aren't available until after December 1, 2007. It also mandated an advisory vote or Council ordinance on the preferred alternative for the Alaskan Way Tunnel and Seawall project.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET**

**SB 6386** maintained a designated reserve of \$825 million and an ending balance or reserve of \$216 million in anticipation of the 2007-09 budget shortfalls.

Highlights of the operating budget include:

- \$51.6 million for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- \$34 million of additional mental health funding
- \$95 million in K-12 funding, including \$28 million for student learning assistance
- \$38 million in higher education enhancements
- \$18.2 million to cover Medicaid co-pays for 100,000 low income elderly
- \$12.5 million for 6,500 new slots in the Basic Health Plan
- \$14 million for affordable/low-income housing

### **SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET**

**SB 6384** approves funding for capital budget projects around Washington State. Although the funding was limited this year the full \$2 million requested for the Seattle Aquarium for Phase I of the restoration and remodel was approved. The capital budget also included \$21 million for low-income housing.

### **KEY POLICY LEGISLATION APPROVED**

- **HB 2002** – Extends foster care benefits until age 21
- **HB 2418** – Funding for low income housing and homeless efforts
- **HB 2984** – New affordable housing in exchange for developer incentives
- **SB 6365** – Increasing fees for weighing and measuring device inspections
- **SB 6428** – Mandatory electronic recycling for TV's and computers
- **SB 6566** – Focusing the commute trip reduction program on urban growth areas with congested highways

### **A Final Word of Thanks**

The Seattle legislative delegation was instrumental to the outcome of the legislative session and deserves a thank you for their efforts.